

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:18,400

She flew straight into the imagination of the world.

2

00:00:18,400 --> 00:00:23,680

She was a fascinating figure with tremendous courage.

3

00:00:23,680 --> 00:00:26,160

She vanished into a notion of mystery.

4

00:00:26,160 --> 00:00:30,640

I do not believe that the whole story has been made known.

5

00:00:30,640 --> 00:00:39,760

A life and a legend still inspires our present.

6

00:00:39,760 --> 00:00:43,760

Her name was Amelia Earhart.

7

00:00:43,760 --> 00:00:53,760

She was the only one who knew about the unknown.

8

00:00:53,760 --> 00:01:03,760

She was a land that knows no limits of time or space.

9

00:01:03,760 --> 00:01:13,760

From the dawn of discovery to the nightfall of catastrophe,

10

00:01:13,760 --> 00:01:19,760

journey to a universe that we unexplained, the unforeseen, the unbelievable.

11

00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:25,760

I'll face beyond reality where no question will go unanswered.

12

00:01:25,760 --> 00:01:33,760

I'll trace what nymphs and legends are law, superstition and science.

13

00:01:33,760 --> 00:01:53,760

Trapped into a world of secrets and mysteries.

14

00:01:53,760 --> 00:02:01,760

It's time for our journey to begin.

15

00:02:01,760 --> 00:02:05,760

You flew into history.

16

00:02:05,760 --> 00:02:13,760

And where did you land?

17

00:02:13,760 --> 00:02:29,760

Knowledge surrounds these library walls and with these instruments that knowledge can be ours.

18

00:02:29,760 --> 00:02:33,760

Some people are destined for glory.

19

00:02:33,760 --> 00:02:39,760

Men and women able to capture the hearts and minds of millions.

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00:02:39,760 --> 00:02:45,760

And when they pass on, the world mourns their loss.

21

00:02:45,760 --> 00:02:57,760

But often with the clarity of hindsight, we can rediscover the very real, very human qualities that can get lost in the rush towards heroism.

22

00:02:57,760 --> 00:03:07,760

In the case of Amelia Earhart, this rediscovery can lead us to a new understanding of her life and her mysterious death.

23

00:03:07,760 --> 00:03:15,760

Dawn, July 3rd, 1937.

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00:03:15,760 --> 00:03:21,760

Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan, her navigator, were exhausted.

25

00:03:21,760 --> 00:03:31,760

They'd been awake for over 20 hours and the vibration and noise from the twin motors of their Lockheed Electric airplane had driven them to the end of their endurance.

26

00:03:31,760 --> 00:03:39,760

There was precious little room in the cockpit to stretch and any sleep would have to wait until they reached their final destination.

27

00:03:39,760 --> 00:03:47,760

They watched the sun explode over the horizon and searched frantically for the small island that should have been right under them.

28

00:03:47,760 --> 00:03:51,760

Fuel and time were running out.

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00:03:51,760 --> 00:03:55,760

Amelia tried to work the radio to find out where they were.

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00:03:55,760 --> 00:03:57,760

They were close, very close.

31

00:03:57,760 --> 00:04:04,760

But at 8.43 a.m., one hour passed the point when the plane's fuel supply should have been exhausted.

32

00:04:04,760 --> 00:04:07,760

Their last transmission ceased.

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00:04:07,760 --> 00:04:13,760

The plane, Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan, had simply disappeared.

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00:04:17,760 --> 00:04:21,760

Amelia Earhart was born in Atchison, Kansas in 1897.

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00:04:21,760 --> 00:04:25,760

Even as a child, she displayed the qualities that would mark her adulthood.

36

00:04:25,760 --> 00:04:32,760

I can always say one was never bored when she was around.

37

00:04:32,760 --> 00:04:40,760

She wanted to do unusual things, that is things that were unusual for women in those days.

38

00:04:40,760 --> 00:04:45,760

And we were quite happy tomb boys.

39

00:04:47,760 --> 00:04:54,760

In 1917, the 20-year-old Amelia would work as a nurse at a military hospital where many of her patients were flyers.

40

00:04:54,760 --> 00:05:02,760

Perhaps through them, she discovered what would soon become her private and then public obsession, flight.

41

00:05:05,760 --> 00:05:12,760

It was new to everybody, of course. Only, of course, most people thought everybody who flew were a little cracked in the upper story, you know.

42

00:05:12,760 --> 00:05:16,760

To do such dangerous stuff as flying.

43

00:05:16,760 --> 00:05:22,760

Amelia, of course, she was a lovely girl. She wasn't pushy.

44

00:05:22,760 --> 00:05:28,760

But when she wanted to do something, she would use all that she had in her to do it.

45

00:05:28,760 --> 00:05:32,760

And she just had to fly.

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00:05:32,760 --> 00:05:38,760

In 1928, the year after Lindbergh's historic solo flight across the Atlantic,

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00:05:38,760 --> 00:05:43,760

Amelia, quite by chance, was invited to be a passenger on another transatlantic trip.

48

00:05:43,760 --> 00:05:51,760

Upon the successful completion of this journey, even though she didn't actually pilot the plane, she was hailed as Lady Lindy.

49

00:05:51,760 --> 00:05:58,760

Her life would never be the same. And her face began to appear almost daily in the world's newspapers and magazines.

50

00:05:58,760 --> 00:06:07,760

I captured her as she was. She was a great person, but did not walk around and strut her around as though she was.

51

00:06:07,760 --> 00:06:12,760

I think perhaps ours was not a photo session that was a working session.

52

00:06:12,760 --> 00:06:20,760

It was a sort of a friendly, though I was her brother and would be taking pictures of her.

53

00:06:20,760 --> 00:06:30,760

From the beginning, her career was managed, some say ruthlessly pushed, by George Putnam, a publisher who first enjoyed a business relationship with her,

54

00:06:30,760 --> 00:06:33,760

and then became more emotionally involved.

55

00:06:34,760 --> 00:06:42,760

She married in February of 1931, and by then, Amelia was well along her way to becoming a media superstar.

56

00:06:42,760 --> 00:06:48,760

Though some say that her flying abilities barely kept up to her legend and to the world's expectations.

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00:06:48,760 --> 00:06:54,760

Millions of women looked up to her for making it in a man's world,

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00:06:54,760 --> 00:06:58,760

and she was determined to push her abilities as far as they could go.

59

00:06:58,760 --> 00:07:01,760

Flying record after flying record became hers.

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00:07:04,760 --> 00:07:18,760

In early 1937, Amelia Earhart was ready for her ultimate achievement and around the world flight.

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00:07:18,760 --> 00:07:25,760

Despite her fantastic accomplishments, many people were concerned that this global flight was too ambitious.

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00:07:26,760 --> 00:07:33,760

According to some flying friends including stunt pilot Paul Mantz, Amelia's navigation abilities were weak,

63

00:07:33,760 --> 00:07:37,760

and her knowledge of radio transmission weaker.

64

00:07:37,760 --> 00:07:42,760

But the flight posed an irresistible challenge.

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00:07:49,760 --> 00:07:54,760

Even on paper, the flight looked difficult. In reality, it would prove to be impossible.

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00:07:54,760 --> 00:08:02,760

Beginning in Oakland, California, she would travel east, the plane often flying over vast stretches of ocean.

67

00:08:02,760 --> 00:08:08,760

The longest trip would begin in New Guinea, ending over 6,000 miles away on a tiny Pacific Island.

68

00:08:08,760 --> 00:08:11,760

That, at least, was the plan.

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00:08:11,760 --> 00:08:17,760

Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan never made it to their destination, the Holland Island in the Pacific.

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00:08:17,760 --> 00:08:21,760

World reaction was immediate.

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00:08:22,760 --> 00:08:28,760

Within hours after their disappearance, President Roosevelt ordered a naval search of the area.

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00:08:28,760 --> 00:08:35,760

The aircraft carrier Lexington and the battleship Colorado conducted a detailed sweep of the waters near Howland.

73

00:08:35,760 --> 00:08:38,760

They found nothing.

74

00:08:40,760 --> 00:08:44,760

Back in the United States, the media that had done so much to create a legend

75

00:08:44,760 --> 00:08:48,760

continued to generate speculation as to what had happened.

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00:08:49,760 --> 00:08:55,760

Two years later, in 1939, Amelia and her navigator were declared legally dead.

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00:08:55,760 --> 00:09:00,760

Her story, her was shadowed by the oncoming Second World War.

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00:09:00,760 --> 00:09:04,760

The Pacific that was her final resting place became a battleground,

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00:09:04,760 --> 00:09:09,760

and it was not until after the war that the case was reopened when startling information began to appear.

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00:09:09,760 --> 00:09:14,760

I think there is sufficient evidence now at this point to believe that she was picked up by the Japanese,

81

00:09:14,760 --> 00:09:17,760

and may have died in Japanese custody.

82

00:09:17,760 --> 00:09:23,760

It's one of the amazing stories of the 20th century, but I think the answer lies in Japan.

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00:09:23,760 --> 00:09:28,760

Disappearance of Amelia Earhart has become one of the world's great mysteries.

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00:09:28,760 --> 00:09:34,760

Some say that mystery has been solved, claiming that she was not a victim of fate,

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00:09:34,760 --> 00:09:38,760

but one of the first victims of the Second World War.

86

00:09:39,760 --> 00:09:43,760

World War II tore the Pacific apart.

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00:09:43,760 --> 00:09:49,760

When peace came in 1945 and the victorious Allied armies occupied Japanese territories,

88

00:09:49,760 --> 00:09:57,760

strange stories began to surface about a mysterious woman flyer and her male companion,

89

00:09:57,760 --> 00:10:00,760

captured and imprisoned by the Japanese.

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00:10:00,760 --> 00:10:07,760

The year of the capture, 1937, the same year that Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan vanished.

91

00:10:08,760 --> 00:10:13,760

Fred Garner is a man with a mission. His search has taken over 30 years,

92

00:10:13,760 --> 00:10:17,760

but he feels that he has discovered the truth.

93

00:10:17,760 --> 00:10:27,760

I believe the plane went down in a reef area that lies between Howland Island and Canton Island in the northern Phoenix Group.

94

00:10:27,760 --> 00:10:31,760

She broadcast for several days, and they never found the exact area,

95

00:10:31,760 --> 00:10:37,760

and I think she was picked up by the Japanese and taken into first of the marshals and then to Saipen in the Marialas.

96

00:10:38,760 --> 00:10:42,760

Garner's many trips to the Pacific brought him to Saipen,

97

00:10:42,760 --> 00:10:46,760

and it is there that he believes Amelia Earhart can be found.

98

00:10:46,760 --> 00:10:52,760

Questioning of literally hundreds of the natives on various of the Pacific Islands

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00:10:52,760 --> 00:10:57,760

indicate to us clearly that a man and woman bearing the description of Earhart and Noonan,

100

00:10:57,760 --> 00:11:00,760

flyers were being held by the Japanese.

101

00:11:00,760 --> 00:11:06,760

The woman died of dysentery sometime between 8 and 14 months after a rival on the Abandoned Inner.

102

00:11:06,760 --> 00:11:10,760

Navigated with Fred Noonan and was executed after her death.

103

00:11:10,760 --> 00:11:15,760

So far, Garner has yet to find definitive proof that Amelia survived her crash,

104

00:11:15,760 --> 00:11:21,760

but another researcher working in Washington, DC, believes that she has found just that.

105

00:11:21,760 --> 00:11:30,760

I came across a very obscure file, and in it was a telegram from Wai-ching China internment camp

106

00:11:30,760 --> 00:11:36,760

notifying hundreds of Americans that their relatives were still alive,

107

00:11:36,760 --> 00:11:42,760

and of a particular interest to us is the one that was addressed to GP Putnam,

108

00:11:42,760 --> 00:11:48,760

who was Amelia's husband, and that telegram contains 10 words,

109

00:11:48,760 --> 00:11:53,760

camp liberated, all well, loads to tell, love to mother.

110

00:11:53,760 --> 00:12:00,760

And this telegram leads me to believe that Amelia did not die at the scene of the 1937 crash,

111

00:12:00,760 --> 00:12:10,760

but was in fact picked up by Japanese interned in China at Wai-ching and lived through 1945,

112

00:12:10,760 --> 00:12:13,760

when the camp was liberated.

113

00:12:13,760 --> 00:12:19,760

Any mystery as enduring as the Earhart case is bound to attract theories,

114

00:12:19,760 --> 00:12:23,760

some logical, some fantastic.

115

00:12:23,760 --> 00:12:28,760

There have been incredible explanations as to where Amelia Earhart may have gone,

116

00:12:28,760 --> 00:12:32,760

or where she may be today.

117

00:12:32,760 --> 00:12:35,760

This is Amelia's Lockheed Electra.

118

00:12:35,760 --> 00:12:37,760

It should have taken her around the world.

119

00:12:37,760 --> 00:12:39,760

Instead, it disappeared.

120

00:12:39,760 --> 00:12:41,760

Or did it?

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00:12:41,760 --> 00:12:48,760

In 1944, seven years after Amelia vanished, an American sergeant named Thomas Devine swore

122

00:12:48,760 --> 00:12:51,760

that he saw that plane inside Pan.

123

00:12:51,760 --> 00:12:59,760

I was present at the captured Japanese S. Leo airfield, where Marine Corps officers were discussing

124

00:12:59,760 --> 00:13:07,760

the discovery and presence of Amelia Earhart's airplane in a nearby captured hangar.

125

00:13:07,760 --> 00:13:12,760

The hangar was padlocked and guarded by a group of Marines.

126

00:13:12,760 --> 00:13:17,760

I did see the plane on three occasions, and the last time it was in flames.

127

00:13:17,760 --> 00:13:19,760

I burned the plane.

128

00:13:19,760 --> 00:13:23,760

Devine believes that the US government simply wanted to forget the incident,

129

00:13:23,760 --> 00:13:28,760

closing an embarrassing chapter in American-Japanese relations.

130

00:13:28,760 --> 00:13:35,760

It is my intention to go back to Saipan before my lifetime is expended

131

00:13:35,760 --> 00:13:41,760

to prove that the remains of Earhart and Núñez are still on Saipan.

132

00:13:41,760 --> 00:13:45,760

Matrix Anne Pellegrino, who duplicated Amelia's around the world flight,

133

00:13:45,760 --> 00:13:49,760

has an even more far-fetched theory as to where she can be found.

134

00:13:49,760 --> 00:13:55,760

I think there is a slight possibility that Amelia Earhart may still be alive.

135

00:13:55,760 --> 00:14:00,760

I believe that she agreed to do something for the government and blew the cover,

136

00:14:00,760 --> 00:14:08,760

and I think for that reason she was forever told that she could never come back as Amelia Earhart.

137

00:14:08,760 --> 00:14:15,760

Most researchers believe otherwise, and many feel that there is really only one place where Amelia can be found today.

138

00:14:15,760 --> 00:14:18,760

Based upon all her fuel and historical data that we have,

139

00:14:18,760 --> 00:14:24,760

logic says that she went down. She went, she's down at the bottom of the ocean.

140

00:14:24,760 --> 00:14:29,760

Many theories have appeared and will appear to explain what happened to Amelia Earhart.

141

00:14:29,760 --> 00:14:33,760

Some say she was steered wrong by reformed alcoholic Fred Núñez,

142

00:14:33,760 --> 00:14:36,760

who took one drink too many the night before departure.

143

00:14:36,760 --> 00:14:41,760

Others, that simple inexperience, doomed the pair.

144

00:14:41,760 --> 00:14:45,760

But the truth remains obscure. Or is it?

145

00:14:45,760 --> 00:14:50,760

If what happened to Amelia Earhart and her navigator was an accident,

146

00:14:50,760 --> 00:14:53,760

it may be possible to trace their final moments.

147

00:14:53,760 --> 00:15:01,760

Using modern methods of accident investigation, perhaps this enduring mystery can be put to rest.

148

00:15:02,760 --> 00:15:08,760

Since that July morning in 1937 when Amelia Earhart and Fred Núñez vanished,

149

00:15:08,760 --> 00:15:13,760

the cause of their disappearance has spawned much speculation.

150

00:15:13,760 --> 00:15:17,760

But there's one man who believes there is no mystery.

151

00:15:17,760 --> 00:15:25,760

In fact, he feels that today her remains can still be found, 16,000 feet below the South Pacific.

152

00:15:26,760 --> 00:15:35,760

Amelia and Fred became involved in an aircraft accident. It was simple as that.

153

00:15:35,760 --> 00:15:42,760

It involved communications and navigational mistakes that they couldn't find the island.

154

00:15:42,760 --> 00:15:48,760

Gerdjian Long has spent the last 25 years studying the maps and navigational tools

155

00:15:48,760 --> 00:15:51,760

used by Amelia and Fred on their last flight.

156

00:15:51,760 --> 00:15:56,760

He feels certain that they came very close to their final destination,

157

00:15:56,760 --> 00:16:02,760

only missing by a scant few miles due to faulty equipment.

158

00:16:03,760 --> 00:16:09,760

He had about a three and three quarter degree westerly deviation in his compass that he didn't know he had.

159

00:16:09,760 --> 00:16:15,760

The island was six and a half miles approximately to the east of where they thought it was.

160

00:16:15,760 --> 00:16:20,760

It's like trying to find something but you're looking in the wrong place.

161

00:16:20,760 --> 00:16:24,760

Long has studied not only the text of Amelia's last messages,

162

00:16:24,760 --> 00:16:32,760

but their recorded reception on board the Coast Guard cutter, Atasca, anchored just off Highland Island.

163

00:16:34,760 --> 00:16:40,760

It appears from the text that Amelia and Fred never realized how close they were.

164

00:16:40,760 --> 00:16:43,760

I can only speculate about their last agonizing moments,

165

00:16:43,760 --> 00:16:49,760

as time and their chances for survival dwindled with every passing second.

166

00:16:50,760 --> 00:16:53,760

Amelia's voice began to show the incredible strain.

167

00:16:53,760 --> 00:16:58,760

Over 20 hours of sleepless flight, the hellish morning sun in her face,

168

00:16:58,760 --> 00:17:03,760

the drone of the engines growing louder, louder.

169

00:17:04,760 --> 00:17:10,760

Finally, the engines began to sputter and then went silent.

170

00:17:11,760 --> 00:17:14,760

It would only have taken a few moments for her plane to hit the water

171

00:17:14,760 --> 00:17:18,760

and even less time to disappear beneath the waves.

172

00:17:18,760 --> 00:17:21,760

Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were gone.

173

00:17:21,760 --> 00:17:25,760

And according to Elgin Long, her plane is still there,

174

00:17:25,760 --> 00:17:28,760

only a few miles away from Howland Island.

175

00:17:29,760 --> 00:17:34,760

If we can locate the airplane on the ocean floor, where I believe it is,

176

00:17:34,760 --> 00:17:36,760

and it is in a manageable search area,

177

00:17:36,760 --> 00:17:40,760

I think we will finally solve once and for all the Amelia Earhart mystery.

178

00:17:40,760 --> 00:17:44,760

Elgin Long is sure he's right.

179

00:17:44,760 --> 00:17:51,760

In fact, he's looking for investors to stake the \$3 million it would take to find her plane.

180

00:17:52,760 --> 00:17:55,760

But how can he be so sure?

181

00:18:05,760 --> 00:18:11,760

What Elgin Long has done is to use mathematics to cross-check Amelia's radio transmissions

182

00:18:11,760 --> 00:18:16,760

and their reception on board the ATASCA as they increased in strength.

183

00:18:17,760 --> 00:18:21,760

Through these calculations, it is possible to triangulate Amelia's position

184

00:18:21,760 --> 00:18:26,760

as she approached her destination and as she flew right by.

185

00:18:26,760 --> 00:18:30,760

Still, radio signals can be deceiving.

186

00:18:30,760 --> 00:18:38,760

And as logical as this theory appears, the data still remains inconclusive.

187

00:18:42,760 --> 00:18:46,760

Amelia Earhart's last flight has become a mythic journey.

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00:18:46,760 --> 00:18:50,760

Although there were many pioneers who gave their lives to flight,

189

00:18:50,760 --> 00:18:53,760

Amelia somehow lives on.

190

00:18:54,760 --> 00:18:56,760

Why?

191

00:19:00,760 --> 00:19:03,760

Amelia Earhart was more than a flyer.

192

00:19:03,760 --> 00:19:06,760

She was an inspiration.

193

00:19:07,760 --> 00:19:13,760

She believed that a woman should be allowed to do whatever she was capable of doing.

194

00:19:13,760 --> 00:19:18,760

And if that was going out and flying an airplane around the world setting world's records,

195

00:19:18,760 --> 00:19:23,760

while her husband stayed at home and minded the business, that was okay.

196

00:19:23,760 --> 00:19:25,760

That's what she should be able to do.

197

00:19:25,760 --> 00:19:30,760

Millions of American women followed everything that she did.

198

00:19:30,760 --> 00:19:36,760

She was a fascinating figure with tremendous courage.

199

00:19:36,760 --> 00:19:42,760

It's not the mystery. That's not the important thing.

200

00:19:42,760 --> 00:19:49,760

The important thing is what she did with the time that she had.

201

00:19:50,760 --> 00:20:00,760

The courage of Amelia Earhart and the unsung Fred Noonan transcends any theory about their final disappearance.

202

00:20:00,760 --> 00:20:05,760

Their exploits inspired millions around the world.

203

00:20:05,760 --> 00:20:09,760

And they should be remembered for their lives, not for their deaths.

204

00:20:09,760 --> 00:20:15,760

For Amelia Earhart's spirit represents something that will never become outdated.

205

00:20:15,760 --> 00:20:22,760

A belief in an individual's ability and right to accomplish anything their imagination can conceive.

206

00:20:26,760 --> 00:20:28,760

You flew into history.

207

00:20:31,760 --> 00:20:33,760

May you find peace there.

208

00:20:34,760 --> 00:20:49,760

Secrets and mysteries presents information based in part on theories and opinions, some of which are controversial.

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00:20:49,760 --> 00:20:56,760

The producer's purpose is not to validate any side of an issue, but through the use of actualities and dramatic recreation,

210

00:20:56,760 --> 00:21:00,760

relate a possible answer, but not the only answer to this material.

211

00:21:04,760 --> 00:21:09,760

For telecom auditions provided by new Hilton Hawaiian Village, home of Don Ho,

212

00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:15,760

a 22-acre resort on Waikiki Beach with dazzling views, swimming pools and more, the Hilton Hawaiian Village.